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couragement and promotion of the science of natural history.' It was incorporated February 25, 1831, and has long been one of the eminent and essentially public institutions of the community. The Society contributes at present to the promotion of science and of public education by the following means: (1) Meetings held on the evenings of the first and third Wednesdays of each month from November to May. These meetings are devoted to the presentation of the results of scientific investigations and to the popular expositions of such studies as are of general public interest. (2) Publication of Memoirs, Proceedings and Occasional Papers, which all record the discoveries of members and others. These publications are widely distributed in all parts of the world, more than four hundred copies being sent to academies, learned societies and other correspondents, as well as to such members of the Society as express a wish to receive them. (3) The Library, which contains upwards of 25,000 volumes and 12,000 pamphlets, includes numerous extensive sets and rare works, many of them not accessible elsewhere in this vicinity. Members are allowed eight volumes at a time for home use, and each volume may be retained a month without renewal. The library privileges are granted without reference to residence. Books are sent by express at the borrower's expense. (4) The Museum contains the collections of the Society and is open to the public on two days of each week. The number of visitors is large on those days. The Museum is open to members on other days. Special efforts have been made to display the fauna, flora and geology of New England. To increase the educational value of the collections, printed guides have been placed on sale. (5) Lectures to teachers and others, which at present are largely maintained by the Trustees of the Lowell Institute.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It is announced that a donor, whose name is withheld, has endowed in Harvard University a chair of hygiene.

MAXEY HALL, Brown University, has been injured by fire, the damage being estimated at \$25,000.

DR. JAMES MONROE TAYLOR has been elected President of Brown University. Dr. Taylor has been, since 1886, President of Vassar College, where his administration has been very successful.

DR. THOMAS J. SEE, well known for his important researches in astronomy, has been nominated for a professorship of mathematics at the Naval Academy, Annapolis.

MR. W. L. CASCART has been appointed adjunct professor of mechanical engineering in Columbia University. At the same meeting of the Trustees the title of Professor R. S. Woodward was changed from professor of mechanics to professor of mechanics and mathematical physics.

PROFESSOR FRITZ REGEL, of Jena, and Dr. Erich v. Drygalski, of Berlin, have been appointed to professorships of geography in the Universities at Würzburg and Tübingen respectively.

DR. ROBERT OTTO, professor of chemistry in the Institute of Technology at Braunschweig, has retired. Dr. Voswinckel has qualified as docent in chemistry in the Institute of Technology at Berlin.

ACCORDING to the new catalogue of Brown University 925 students are enrolled, an increase of 65 over last year. The increase of the Freshman class, from 168 last year to 216 this, is especially noticeable. There are 99 graduate students.

In a recent number of the *Harvard Graduates' Magazine*, Professor A. B. Hart publishes a comparative statement of the attendance at the leading American universities. According to his figures the institutions rank in numbers as follows:

Undergraduates in arts and sciences: Harvard, 2,260; Yale, 1,755; Michigan, 1,429; Wisconsin, 1,097; Columbia, 802; Chicago, 783; Pennsylvania, 653; Johns Hopkins, 187.

Graduate students: Chicago, 370; Harvard, 319; Columbia, 313; Yale, 270; Johns Hopkins, 192; Pennsylvania, 151; Wisconsin, 87; Michigan, 73.

The medical department: Pennsylvania, 793; Columbia, 695; Harvard, 546; Michigan, 408; Johns Hopkins, 201; Yale, 112.

The law department: Michigan, 720; Harvard, 543; Columbia, 341; Pennsylvania, 312; Yale, 195.

THE following details are now given in regard to the establishment in Bombay of an Imperial University for India. Mr. Jamsetjee N. Tata offers a property representing a capital of over £200,000 and calculated to yield a yearly income of nearly £10,000 for the establishment of an Imperial University or a Research Institute, in order to supply the want of a higher course of post-graduate instruction in scientific research for the best students of the existing universities. A provisional committee has drafted, for the approval of the government of India, a bill which provides for a scheme of studies with a threefold division: (1) scientific and technological; (2) medical and sanitary, and (3) educational and philosophical. The last of these branches has been included in the scheme in order to give the institution the character of a university. The new institution seeks to have the power of granting degrees and diplomas, and as it proposes to offer a strictly post-graduate course of studies it will not in any way interfere with the working of any of the existing universities. The scheme of the provisional committee involves an expenditure larger than is provided for by Mr. Tata's generous offer. A grant in aid, therefore, will be asked for from the government of India. The support of native princes, of local governments and of the public generally will be sought. It is estimated that the initial expenditure required will amount to over £100,000 and the annual charge to about £20,000. On this basis, therefore, it is proposed to establish the several departments by degrees and to found subsequently special chairs through public and private munificence.

THE following statements from a circular of the German Colonial School at Witzerhausen should be of special interest to Americans at the present time, as showing what Germany is doing to promote the education of men who intend to engage in industrial enterprises in her colonies. Similar institutions are maintained in Belgium and Holland. The purpose of this school, we quote from an announcement sent by the Division of Publications of the Department of Agriculture, is to educate young men to become practical superintendents of estates and plantations, planters, agriculturists, stock raisers and merchants for the German colonial possessions. The

course of study, which is completed in two years, comprises the following studies: Plant culture in general, including the study of soils, climate and fertilizers, farm management, bookkeeping, mechanics, engineering (bridge and road building, drainage, irrigation); special plant culture, animal husbandry and dairying; culture, use and value of tropical plants; establishment of plantations; gardening; fruit culture; vegetable culture; viticulture; forestry; geology, with special reference to tropical mining; botany (physiology, anatomy, systematic and geographical); chemistry, with laboratory practice; surveying and drafting; hygiene for tropical countries; veterinary science; colonial history and geography; a study of the people; the history of education, religion and missionary work; colonial government, and commercial laws and relations; languages; trades (carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, harness-makers, bakers, butchers, etc.); practical work in field, garden, vineyard, forest, dairy, etc.; athletics (sports) of all kinds.

PROFESSOR W. A. HERDMAN, F.R.S., remarks in the twelfth annual report of the Liverpool Marine Biological Committee, says *Nature*, that there are two practices in American universities which excite the envy of professors in England. One is the 'sabbatical year'—the one year in every seven given for purposes of travel, study and investigation. The other is the frequent endowment of an expedition—or equipment of an exploring party—by an individual man or woman who is interested in the subject and can give a special fund for such a purpose. Columbia University, in New York; the Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore; Yale University, in New Haven, and Harvard, at Cambridge, have all been benefited immensely in the past by such exploring expeditions. Nearly every year of late has seen one or more of such, due to private generosity, in the field; and the work they have done has both added to general scientific knowledge, and has also enriched with collections the laboratories and museums of the college to which the expedition belonged.

Erratum: Vol. IX., p. 174. Line 12 from bottom of second column, for *Australia* read *Austria*.